

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-20

NSC-07 DODE-00 SAM-01 ACDA-19 /118 R

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R 240029Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 109169

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR (NATO, EC)

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: UK DRAFT NATO DECLARATION

FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT BRIEFING
MAY 23 AND DRAWN UPON BY SPOKESMAN RE NYT STORY THAT
BRITISH OFFERING NEW NATO DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES
CAN BE USED BY ADDRESSEES IN RESPONDING TO PRESS INQUIRIES:

Q: THERE IS A REPORT IN THE NEW YORK TIMES THAT THE
BRITISH ARE OFFERING A NEW DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES
FOR NATO. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

A: BRITAIN HAS OFFERED A NEW DRAFT OF THE DECLARATION OF
PRINCIPLES THAT HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION IN NATO FOR
SOME TIME. WE REGARD THE U.K. CONTRIBUTION AS POSITIVE.

SINCE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION AND THE
QUESTION OF ITS PROMULGATION ARE BOTH UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDER-
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ATION AMONG THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN NATO, I WILL

HAVE NO COMMENT ON SPECIFICS.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE EARLIER FRENCH DRAFT? WOULD THIS
SUPERSEDE THAT?

A: THE BRITISH DRAFT BUILDS ON THE FRENCH DRAFT.

Q: WHERE DOES THE EC-9 DRAFT OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
PRINCIPLES STAND?

A: WE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERNS EARLIER ON THE SUBSTANCE OF
A DRAFT DECLARATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE EC NINE, AND
WE DO NOT SEE PROSPECTS OF EARLY AGREEMENT ON SUCH A
DECLARATION.

Q: WHY HAVE THE BRITISH OFFERED A NEW NATO DRAFT DEC-
LARATION WHEN EARLIER YOU HAD WELCOMED THE FRENCH DRAFT
AS CONSTRUCTIVE?

A: THE EARLIER FRENCH DRAFT DID REPRESENT A CONSTRUCTIVE
EFFORT. HOWEVER, THE BRITISH DRAFT INCORPORATES FURTHER
IDEAS WHICH HAVE FLOWED FROM DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN
PLACE SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FRENCH DRAFT.

AGAIN, I AM NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE CONTENTS SINCE
THEY ARE CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, ALLIANCE, PRESS CONFERENCES, GUIDANCE INSTRUCTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE109169
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WJGEHRON:SS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740130-0381
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740519/aaaaaqku.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 OCT 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE: UK DRAFT NATO DECLARATION FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT BRIEFING
TAGS: PFOR, UK, NATO, EEC
To: NATO POSTS EC BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005